

9/13/07 Workshop  
Irrigated Lands Program  
Deadline: 9/4/07 Noon

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August 23, 2007

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State Water Resources Control Board  
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**Re: Irrigated Lands Program Joint Workshop.**

Dear State and Regional Water Board Members:


I would like to add my comments to your consideration of the Central Valley's Conditional Waiver program for Irrigated Agriculture. As co-author of a book "Thirst: Fighting the Corporate Theft of Our Water" and a documentary film, "Thirst," on water issues in California, I believe it is incumbent on our public officials to defend--and if necessary restore--the quality of our region's water from agricultural run-offs.

Our waterways and our drinking water are a public trust that must be defended, even from special interests that have an important role in providing other goods and services in our economy. The fact that a significant percent of Tulare County's water systems cannot provide safe drinking water is a disgrace. How can this happen? Is this the price of affordable food? Certainly not.

The Central Valley Regional Water Board has been asleep at the wheel. The idea that we as a community allow pesticide runoffs without regulation is astonishing. Is the state government merely the handmaiden of private interests who are free to pollute at will. Perhaps, irrigators can afford to drink Fiji water, but most people cannot.

I support any and all efforts you undertake to strongly regulate pesticide runoffs, including monitoring requirements, permits, and enforcement. Keeping agriculture strong should not come at the expense of poisoning our children's water.

Best,



Alan Snitow